

**Special Courts Committee  
Judicial Conference of Indiana**

November 3, 2006  
Minutes

1. Members present. The following members of the committee were present Kenneth Abbott, Randy Coffey, Matthew Cox, Jennifer DeGroote, Glenn Hancock, George Hoffman, Michael Pagano, Russell Sanders, Richard Tandy, and Peggy Quint Lohorn, Chair.
2. Staff present. Michelle C. Goodman provided the Committee with staff assistance.
3. Guest. Judge Thomas Clem.
4. Approval of minutes. The Committee approved the minutes from the August 11, 2006 meeting.
5. Court structure discussion. Judge Lohorn provided an overview of this project for the new members of the Committee and that she and Judge Kellam were present at the Board of Directors meeting in September. Judge Lohorn presented an overview of the Committee's initial recommendations to the Board of Directors. The Board was generally receptive to these concepts, but requested more information and details in the form of a definite proposal before making any decisions on this issue. Judge Lohorn also reported that she was prepared to discuss this project with the Indiana Judges Association, but they did not have sufficient time in September to hear her presentation. She indicated that she may be attending the next Judges Association meeting. The Committee continued to discuss the issues involved with this project including issues relating to part-time staff, caseload divisions, sending cases/judges to adjoining counties, etc. Mag. Pagano indicated that there was currently a good government study being conducted in Lake County. He said he would provide the Committee with more information as it becomes available.

The Committee discussed how to get the basic information out to receive input and comments from judges. The Committee decided to put together a PowerPoint presentation and see if there would be an opportunity to present this information at the District meetings. Staff indicated that not all districts meet each year and that she would have to check to see whether this proposal was feasible. The Committee also requested staff to see if time would be available during the April conference. The Committee would like to be able to get more information back for the Board of Directors to review at their June meeting, and if approved, would allow time to present the proposal to the Commission on Courts next fall.

The Committee members agreed to submit their recommendations for PowerPoint content to Michelle who will compile and format the information.

6. Small Claims Rule 2. The Committee reviewed a request for input submitted by the Supreme Court Rules Committee on a proposed amendment to Small Claims Rule 2. The

Committee discussed the issue and supported amending the rule to remove the forty-day provision.

7. 2007 meeting schedule. The Committee selected the following meeting dates for 2007:
  - Friday, February 2, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)
  - Friday, May 11, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)
  - Friday, August 24, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)
  - Friday, November 2, 2007 at 11 a.m. (Indianapolis Time)

All meetings will be held at the Indiana Judicial Center. The Committee also agreed that additional meetings may need to be scheduled depending on the development of proposals on the court structure project.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle C. Goodman  
Staff Attorney